

A photograph of a person with grey hair, seen from the side, wearing a dark blue shirt. They are looking down at a radio setup on a silver tripod in a grassy field. The radio is a black box with a microphone. A white cable runs from the radio to a small white box on the ground. The background is a grassy field with some trees in the distance.

HF Happenings

No 482

South African Radio League 1925 - 2011 Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union Region 1
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http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HF_Happenings/

South African Women's Radio Club (SAWRC)

Yes, there was such a radio club. I have been exchanging e-mails with Pam, ZS6APT, who was the secretary/treasurer for some time. Pam was also involved with the compiling and printing of the YL Beam, the journal of the SAWRC.

Pam is in the process of collecting any available newsletters for the SAWRC and would greatly appreciate any issues that she can lay her hands on. If you have copies of YL Beam in your shack or know of someone who has copies, please contact Pam, ZS6APT, at iti04256@mweb.co.za.

I received an e-mail from Gordon Hogarth, VE3CNA, who is the archivist for the Scarborough Amateur Radio Club Inc., and he said that he came upon a collection of newsletters that belonged to a long-time member that contained one copy of a publication, "YL BEAM" published in 1977, Vol. XXVI, No. 2., by the South African Women's Radio Club. Gordon has posted this copy of YL Beam to the NARC.

QSO365 enters the final month!

Keith, G6NHU's QSO365 project has been mentioned a couple of times over the year and we are pleased to be able to report that despite a major setback in June when his station was completely destroyed following a near lightning strike, it's still going strong and is about to enter the final month.

Keith's QSO365 project has a simple premise - To have a QSO every day over the course of the year. This sounds simple but in practice, it is not quite so straightforward. He did allow a couple of provisos in that if he were working away, or on holiday then he would not have any QSOs, but in fact that has not happened and he has not missed any days. In one instance he made sure he spoke to someone before getting on the red-eye flight to Amsterdam and while





staying away at a conference, he managed to use a borrowed hand-held radio and have a couple of QSOs on 70 cm.

It would be easy to simply talk to the same people every day but that has not happened. Some stations will have been contacted more than once over the course of the year but Keith has made sure that each day he has worked a 'unique' station that is one who has not already appeared in his log previously.

Over the year there have been many aerial improvements at QSO365, Keith started off with a simple long wire aerial and has progressed to having a Cushcraft MA5B on a 10 m Alimast tower from Aerial-Parts of Colchester and a recently installed full size monoband dipole for 40 m.

Things have changed in the shack as well; the original FT-847 has been replaced with a Kenwood TS-590S and an Acom 1000 amplifier. The radio change was planned but was forced following the lightning incident in June.

During 2011, Keith has earned his DXCC award and is expecting the certificates for 'Mixed' and 'Phone' to arrive at any time. With over 3 600 QSOs from more than 150 DXCC entities in the log already for 2011 things are looking good for the final month.

Have you worked G6NHU this year? If you want to get yourself in the QSO365 log then you only have a month left to do it. For more details, head over to the QSO365 web site at <http://qso365.co.uk>

Maybe a project I should work on in the new year! Anybody willing to join me?

Radio Afghanistan on 7 200 kHz

On the IARU R1 website, Uli Bihlmayer, DJ9KR, reports that Radio Afghanistan is operating in the Amateur Radio 40 m band. On November 28, "National Radio of Afghanistan" is again on 7 200 kHz.

I have heard it at 15:30 UTC. It is still on at 16:20 UTC, and certainly as yesterday, will s/off at 16:30 UTC. The signal is S9 + 15 dB with my dipole. At 15:30 UTC it announces, "This is National Radio of Afghanistan" with a frequency of 6 100 kHz. However, this frequency is NOT active. National Radio of AFG is really transmitting on 7 200 kHz (carrier) and covering 7 195 - 7 205 kHz.

Will you please inform your National Telecoms Authorities? I have already done so with the German "Federal Network Agency," which will file an International Complaint. Thank you for your assistance!

Recording of the announcement by DJ9KR

<http://www.iarums-r1.org/iarums/sound/afg7200a.mp3>

Please log your reports of Amateur Band intruders online at

<http://peditio.net/intruder/bluechat.cgi>

December

2 to 4 - ARRL 160 metre contest
9 Schools close
10 to 11 - ARRL 10 metre contest
16 Day of Reconciliation
18 Stew Perry Top Band Challenge
25 Christmas Day
26 Family Day, DARC Christmas Contest
31 end of 2011 CQ DX Marathon

January 2012

1 New Years Day; start of the 2012 CQ Marathon
2 Public Holiday
11 Coastal schools open
18 Inland schools open
20 - 22 PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest
25 SARL 80 metre Club Contest
28 Summer QRP Contest





The Thrill of DIY Construction

In a BBC article, science journalist Angela Saini talks of the thrill of soldering for the first time since she was an engineering student. In the article, she writes about her visit in 2009 to the UK's first Faire for hackers and makers that was held in Newcastle:

"All kinds of people turned up. Not just garden shed hobbyists, but children and graduates, women and men, from all kinds of backgrounds. There were crafters and hackers, working with everything from coloured pieces of felt to complicated little circuit boards.

At that point, I had not picked up a soldering iron since I was at engineering school. When I was a student, our first-year project was to build an entire radio from scratch - not just the circuit but even bending sheets of metal to make the case. I had not done anything like that for ages, and the atmosphere at the Maker Faire swept me away.

I sat down and spent an hour building a tiny circuit of my own. I stitched thin wires together to build a pretty rough-looking device - it was an LED that changed colour when you waved your hand over it. I soldered for the first time since I was a student. And I cannot even explain how proud I was of myself - I still have that light-changing circuit somewhere in a box, even though the battery stopped working a long time ago."

New Data Modes Yahoo Group

Mike Richards, G4WNC, author of the Decode column in RadioUser magazine, has started a data modes Yahoo group. It is a self-help group for SWLs and radio amateurs interested in HF data modes.

Among the files available on the group are the presentation on data modes given at the 2011 RSGB Convention as well as a selection of sound files of the many data modes that can be heard in the amateur HF bands.

Subscribe to the Data Modes group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/datamodes/>

Mike Richards, G4WNC, <http://g4wnc.net/>

New version of ROS data software

José Alberto Nieto Ros, EA5HVK, has released a new version of his data mode software ROS with improved performance for HF NVIS communications. As of 1 December, the code structure of ROS HF is changing in order to support mid to low band NVIS propagation. Versions prior to 6.8.4 will be incompatible with the latest version. There is no change to the MF and EME modes. You can download the new version of ROS from

<http://rosmodem.wordpress.com/2011/01/10/ros-2/>

Charlie Walton inventor of RFID SK

Radio Amateur Charlie Walton, the inventor of Radio Frequency Identification RFID, has passed away on 6 November at 89. Like many inventors, Charlie grew up as an amateur radio enthusiast.

He worked at IBM's research labs in the 1960s and in 1970, he struck out on his own as an inventor with his own company, Proximity Devices. He was granted Patent No 3752960 in 1973.

At the time, RFID was far more expensive than Bar Codes so supermarkets chose the later for their checkouts. These days RFID is a multi-billion dollar industry and even supermarkets have been looking again at RFID to eliminate the need to unload the trolley at the checkout. Read the obituary by Dean Takahashi at

<http://venturebeat.com/2011/11/27/charlie-walton-inventor-of-rfid-passes-away-at-89/>





African DX

Kenya, 5Z. Sigi, DL7DF, will be on holiday with his XYL Sabine in Kenya between 23 November and 6 December. He plans to be active as 5Z4HW and operate on all bands, 160 - 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV as often as possible. The location is the Diani Beach at the coastline of Kenyanear Mombasa. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the DARC Bureau. For more details and updates, visit <http://www.dl7df.com/5z/index.html>

Rwanda, 9X. Carl, SM6CPY will be active as 9XOPY from Rwanda between 24 December and 7 January 2012. Activity will be holiday style on all bands but with a focus on the higher bands. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau.

Republic of Congo, TN. Nicolas, TN9SN, will be active as TN9SN from the Congo possibly until July 2012. Activity will be on all HF bands including 6 metres. QSL via IZ1BZV direct, or by LoTW or eQSL.

Senegal, 6W. Mark, 6W/AA1AC, announced to show up from La Sonome from 4 to 11 December. QSL via homecall.

Namibia, V5. A German team will visit Namibia from December until January 2012. Mathias, V5/DJ2HD, Wolfgang, V5/DH3WO, Ulmar, V5/DK1CE, and Ewald, V5/DJ2BQ will be active on CW, SSB and RTTY on 160 - 10 m as follows:

Ewald, V5/DJ2BQ from 2 December - 16 January

Mathias, V5/DJ2HD from 26 December - 16 January

Wolfgang, V5/DH3WO from 26 December - 5 January

Ulmar, V5/DK1CE from 26 December - 5 January

QSLs for V5/DK1CE via DH3WO, all other QSLs via home calls.

Special Event Stations

Ukraine, EM0. Members of the Black Sea Contest Club (BSCC) are very pleased to announce their special marine mobile operations in order to popularize the Club's activities between 1 December and 28 February 2012. They will be using the call sign EMOBSCC/MM. As a member of Black Sea Contest Club (BSCC), Yuri, UT1FG/MM, will be operating and will use the above special call sign from his marine mobile station. Yuri is reportedly here on business, so activity will be during his free time. Operations are expected on all amateur bands 160 - 2 metres, 70 cm including the Satellites. For more details about BSCC, please visit their web site at <http://www.bscc.in>

Lithuania, LY100. Vilmantas, LY3BY, will operate LY100SP (LY100 South Pole) between 5 and 25 December, celebrating the 100th anniversary of Roald Amundsen, the first man reaching the South Pole. Activity will be on the HF bands mostly CW. Reference number WAP-206. QSL via his home call sign, by the Bureau or direct to LY3BY: Vilmantas Morkunas, PO Box 88, LT-76002 Siauliai, Lithuania.

France, TM100. Francois, F8DVD, will activate special event station TM100SP (TM100 South Pole) during the whole month of December. Activity is to commemoration of 100th anniversary of Roald Amundsen's journey to become the first explorer to reach the South Pole on 14 December





1911. Operations will be on HF bands, 40 - 10 metres, mostly SSB, and his operation will count for WAP-225 for the "Worldwide Antarctic Program" (WAP) award. QSL via F8DVD: François Bergez, 6, rue de la Liberté, F-71000 Macon, France.

Bulgaria, LZ. Members of the "Balkan Sports Club" will activate the special call sign LZ1363PTT during December. QSOs are good for the "All Bulgarian Saints" award also. QSL via LZ1KZA. See <http://www.balkanclub.org/awards.htm>

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 28 November to 5 December 2011.

QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC, Nov 30

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 1 December 2011

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

QRP ARCI Topband Sprint

00:00 - 06:00 UTC 2 December

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 160 m Only

Classes: CW Only; SSB Only; Mixed

Max operating hours: 6 hours

Exchange: ARCI: RST, state, province or country and ARCI no; non-ARCI: RST, state, province or country and power out

Work stations: Once regardless of mode

QSO Points: ARCI Member: 5 points; Non-Member Different Continent: 4 points; Non-Member Same Continent: 2 points

Multipliers: States, once regardless of mode; VE Provinces, once regardless of mode; Countries, once regardless of mode

CW Power Mult: x 1 >5 W, x 7 1 - 5 W, x 10 250 mW - 1 W, x 15 55 - 250 mW, x 20 <55 mW SSB Power Mult: x 1 >10 W, x 7 2 - 10 W,

x 10 500 mW - 2 W, x 15 100 - 500 mW, x 20 <55 mW

Mixed Power Mult: smaller of CW or SSB power multiplier

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (state mults and province mults and country mults) x power mult

Submit logs by: 17 December 2012

E-mail logs to: contest@qrparci.org

Mail logs to: ARCI Top Band Sprint, c/o Jim Rodenkirch, K9JWV, 762 Saint James Lane, Saint George, UT 84790, USA

Find rules at:

<http://www.qrparci.org/content/view/5267/118/>

QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 2 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 40 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 3 December 2011

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 2 December

Mode: (see rules)





Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 4 December 2011
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

ARRL 160-Metre Contest
22:00 UTC 2 December to 16:00 UTC 4 December
Mode: CW
Bands: 160 m Only
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single
Max operating hours: 42 hours
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: W/VE: RST and ARRL/RAC Section; DX: RST
QSO Points: 2 points per QSO with ARRL/RAC Section; W/VE Station: 5 points per DX QSO
Multipliers: Each ARRL/RAC Sections; Each DXCC Country (W/VE only)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (total section mults and total country mults)
Submit logs by: 16:00 UTC 3 January 2012
E-mail logs to: 160meter@arrl.org
Mail logs to: 160 Meter Contest, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111, USA
Find rules at: <http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>

TARA RTTY Melee
00:00 - 24:00 UTC 3 December
Mode: RTTY
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - low or high; Multi-Op - low or high; SWL
Max operating hours: 16 hours, off time in no more than 2 blocks
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 150 watts

Exchange: W/VE: RST and state or province; DX: RST and serial no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each state once only; Each VE province/territory once only; Each DXCC country once only
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (total state mults and total province mults and total country mults)
Submit logs by: 1 January 2012
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_melee_score.html
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_melee_rules.html

Wake-Up! QRP Sprint
06:00 - 06:29 UTC, 06:30 - 06:59 UTC, 07:00 - 07:29 UTC and 07:30 - 08:00 UTC 3 December
Mode: CW
Bands: 40, 20 m
Classes: (none)
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, serial no and suffix of previous QSO ("QRP" for 1st QSO)
Work stations: Once per band per period
QSO Points: 1 point per km
Multipliers: 1 point per new station worked on each band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total multiplier points
Submit logs by: 10 December 2011
E-mail logs to: ru-qrp-club@mail.ru
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://grp.ru/modules/sections/index.php?op=viewarticle&artid=7&page=1>

TOPS Activity Contest
16:00 UTC 3 December to 15:59 UTC 4 December
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m





Classes: Single Op Multi-Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Single
Max power: High: >100 watts; Low: 100 watts;
QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: TOPS/PRO-CW Members: RST, serial no and member abbreviation; non-Members: RST and serial no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: QSO with own country: 1 point;
QSO with own continent or other continents: 2 points; QSO with TOPS/PRO-CW member: 2 bonus points; QSO between TOPS/PRO-CW members: 6 bonus points

Multipliers: Each prefix once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 31 December 2011

E-mail logs to: yo2rr@clicknet.ro

Mail logs to: Ioan Branga YO2RR, Str. Imperialul Traian nr. 2, RO-305500 Lugoj, Romania

Find rules at:

<http://www.procwclub.yo6ex.ro/TOP%20OF%20OPERATORS%20ACTIVITY%20CONTEST.pdf>

AWA Bruce Kelley Memorial CW Contest

23:00 UTC 3 December to 23:00 UTC 4 December and 23:00 UTC 10 December to 23:00 UTC 11 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST, Eqpt Year and Input Power (see rules for format)

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 8 January 2012

E-mail logs to: (no info)

Mail logs to: (no info)

Find rules at:

<http://www.antiquewireless.org/hamevents2010.htm>

10-Metre RTTY Contest

00:00 - 24:00 UTC 4 December

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 10 m Only

Classes: Single Op; Multi-Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: W: RST and state; VE: RST and province/territory; non-W/VE: RST and serial no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each US state, excluding KH6 and KL7) and DC once; Each VE province/territory once; Each DXCC country (excluding W/VE)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 15 December 2011

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.rttycontesting.com/the10meterrttycontest/rules.html>

Next Week's Contests

CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run, 21:00 - 22:59 UTC 11 December

AWA Bruce Kelley Memorial CW Contest, 23:00 UTC 3 December to 23:00 UTC 4 December and 23:00 UTC 10 December to 23:00 UTC 11 December

ARS Spartan Sprint, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 6 December

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 7 December

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 9 December

NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 9 December

ARRL 10-Metre Contest, 00:00 UTC 10 December to 24:00 UTC 11 December

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 10 December and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 11 December

International Naval Contest, 16:00 UTC 10 December to 15:59 UTC 11 December

SKCC Weekend Sprint, 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 11 December





NA High Speed Meteor Scatter Winter Rally, 00:00 UTC 11 December to 07:00 UTC 18 December

History This Week

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW and Dennis, ZS4BS. The week starting Monday 28 November 2011.

- 1621 - Galileo perfects the telescope (3 Dec)
- 1697 - St Pauls Cathedral opens in London (2 Dec)
- 1783 - Charles and M N Roberts ascend 2 000 feet in a hydrogen balloon (1 Dec)
- 1835 - Hans Christian Anderson publishes his first book of fairy tales (1 Dec)
- 1877 - Thomas Edison demonstrates the hand-cranked phonograph (29 Nov)
- 1886 - First commercially successful AC electric power plant opens in Buffalo (30 Nov)
- 1895 - America's first auto race starts; 6 cars, 55 miles, winner averages 7 mph (28 Nov)
- 1897 - First motorcycle race held, Surrey, England (29 Nov)
- 1899 - Battle of Modder River, Gen Cronje beats General Metheun (28 Nov)
- 1900 - Lord Kitchener succeeds Lord Roberts as supreme commander in South Africa (29 Nov); German engineer patents front wheel drive for automobiles (30 Nov)
- 1901 - Gillette patents the first disposable razor (2 Dec)
- 1942 - First controlled nuclear chain reaction, Enrico Fermi - University of Chicago (2 Dec)
- 1996 NASA's first Mars rover launched from Cape Canaveral (4 Dec)

Birthdays for the week

Winston Churchill, 30 November 1874
Jonathan Swift, 30 November 1667
Bette Midler, 1 December 1945
Monica Seles, 2 December 1973
Britney Spears, 2 December 1981

Mark Twain, 30 November 1835
Lee Trevino, 1 December 1939
Maria Callas, 2 December 1923
Nelly Furtado, 2 December 1978
Brendan Fraser, 3 December 1968

DX Code of Conduct

- I will listen, and listen, and then listen again before calling.
- I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.
- I will not trust the DX cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.
- I will not interfere with the DX station or anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSO slot.
- I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call.
- I will always send my full call sign.
- I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX station requests geographic areas other than mine.
- When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.
- I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.
- I will respect my fellow radio amateurs and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.





<http://www.dx-code.org/publications.htm>

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC and Pete's DX Newsdesk.

Newsletter editors are most welcome to use material from HF Happenings, just remember to acknowledge the source (which could be any one of the names mentioned above). HF Happenings can be provided in MS Word format.

SARL News

Time (UTC / CAT)	Freq (kHz)		Target Area	Language
06:15 / 08:15 *	7 066 / 7 098	From Pretoria /	Southern Africa	Afrikaans
06:30 / 08:30 *	7 066 / 7 098	Port Elizabeth	Southern Africa	English
Various 2 metre and 70 cm repeaters and Echolink country wide				

Amateur Radio Today

Time (UTC / CAT)	Freq (kHz)		Target Area	Language
08:00 - 09:00 /	7 082	From Durban	Southern Africa	English
10:00 - 11:00 *	Various 2 metre and 70 cm repeaters and Echolink country wide			

Amateur Radio Today shortwave broadcast information.

Time (UTC / CAT)	Freq (kHz)	Tx kW	Target Area	Language
08:00 - 09:00 /	7 205	100	Southern Africa	English
10:00 - 11:00 *	17 760	250	East Africa	English
16:30 - 17:30 /	3 230	100	Southern Africa	English
18:30 - 19:30 **				

* Sunday ** Monday

Amateurradio in Aksie

Dorp	Frekwensie	Tyd en dekking
Bloemfontein	145,600 MHz	Maandagaande 20:30 vanaf die Naval Hill herhaler
Kaap	145,700 MHz	Maandagaande 20:30 in die Boland
Pretoria	145,750 MHz	Woensdagaand net na die ZS6MRK bulletin
Pretoria HF	3 680 kHz	Woensdagaand net na die ZS6MRK bulletin
Rustenburg	145,500 MHz	Maandagaande 20:30
Sasolburg	145,600 MHz	Maandagaande 20:00 dekking in die hele Vaaldriehoek

